

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT Sea Patrols off the Latvian Coast

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REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. A single-engine flying boat sometimes patrols the sea area 10 miles off Pape (N 56-14, E 21-03) during the day.¹ It is not known whether this aircraft belongs to the border guards or to the Naval Air Arm. Its base is not known, but after patrolling this area the aircraft disappears in the direction of Lepaya. Air patrols have not been observed in other sea areas.
2. The area 10 miles off Pape is frequently patrolled by an MO vessel during the day, which sometimes stops the fishing vessels to check the papers of the crew. No MOs have been encountered during the night in this sea area.
3. An MO vessel on patrol duty can almost always be encountered, day and night, approximately ten to twelve miles off Lepaya.
4. During the night, a patrol vessel of the MO type is usually stationed approximately one mile off Akmenrags (N 56-50, E 21-10). This vessel sweeps the entire sea area with its searchlight at intervals of approximately five minutes. At a point approximately one mile off Saraiki, another MO patrol vessel is stationed at night. This vessel also sweeps the sea area with its searchlight at intervals of five minutes. During the day, no patrol vessels have been encountered between Akmenrags and Lepaya.²
5. At night, a patrol vessel is frequently encountered 25 miles off Sarnate (N 57-07, E 21-29). This vessel, like all other patrol vessels, does not show any navigation lights, but if a fishing vessel is observed, the patrol vessel turns its searchlight on the fishing craft to determine its number.
6. A patrol vessel of the MO or BO type is stationed three miles off Ventspils (N 57-24, E 21-34) during the night. It sweeps the sea area with its searchlight.

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7. The straits of Irbe are patrolled by BOs, and fishermen, when passing through the straits, are approached and requested to state their destination; weather permitting, sailors from the BO board the fishing vessel and search both the crew and the boat. A sketch of the radar observed on these BOs appears at the end of this report.
8. Warships are seldom encountered at sea off the Latvian coast, except in the sea area off Lepaya. This area is ten to fifteen miles off Lepaya in the sea squares Nos. 500 and 530.³ Minesweepers are most frequently the type of warships encountered. Submarines can also be observed approaching Lepaya on true course 068°, which is the course laid down by the authorities for vessels heading for Lepaya.
9. The reason so few warships are encountered at sea is that fishermen are not allowed to leave port when any naval maneuvers are in progress, nor are they allowed to enter any sea area when exercises are in progress. If a fishing vessel inadvertently approaches such an area, it will be sent to another area, or told to return to port by one of the patrol vessels. These patrol vessels always keep a non-naval or fishing vessel at a distance, from which nothing can be clearly distinguished.

Sketch of the Radar on BO Vessels

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1. [] Comment. The flying boat is probably a MBR-2; it is commonly used in connection with fishing patrol work.
2. [] 25X1A Comment. [] 25X1A reported that the sea area between Akmenrags and Lepaya was heavily patrolled.
3. [] 25X1A Comment. In [] 25X1A source gave the approximate center of sea square No. 500 as N 56-33, E 20-44, and sea square No. 530 as N 56-33, E 20-34. [] reported the center of sea square No. 500 as N 56-31, E 20-42.

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